

Truckers Update from GoC: Impacts to Infrastructure, Ottawa

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The following relates to a planned peaceful demonstration in Ottawa on 28-29 Jan. The Government Operations Centre's (GOC) is monitoring the potential to affect Critical Infrastructure (CI) including Federal assets.

Overview:

- Effective 15 Jan, COVID-19 vaccination became mandatory for all truckers entering Canada from the United States to avoid a two-week quarantine and a negative COVID-19 test before arrival.
- Similarly, beginning on 22 Jan, U.S. DHS will require non-U.S. individuals seeking to enter the United States via land ports of entry and ferry terminals at the U.S.- Mexico and U.S.- Canada borders to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and provide related proof of vaccination, as COVID-19 cases continue to rise nationwide. These new restrictions will apply to non-U.S. individuals who are traveling for both essential and non-essential reasons. They will not apply to U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents, or U.S. nationals." [Link](#)

Key Points:

- A number of Canadian truckers have planned a massive convoy with hopes of ending the mandatory vaccine mandate for truckers.
- Trucking convoys from across the country are planning to gather in Ottawa on 28-29 Jan to demonstrate against this requirement.
- Members of the national group, Freedom Convoy 2022 are planning to conduct "slow roll" convoys at provincial and Canada/U.S. border crossing over the next two weekends. A spokesperson for the group indicates that such convoys will continue so long as government imposed COVID-19 mandates and restrictions continue. [Link](#)
 - o The NB chapter of the group is planning one such convoy at the Woodstock, NB / Houlton, ME beginning at approximately 11:00 EST on 29 Jan and will continue for the majority of the day, with [convoys on both sides of the border](#).
 - o Additional convoys are planned at the NB/NS and several NB/QC borders on 29 Jan
 - o Convoy in Sarnia ON commenced 23 Jan consisting of mostly passenger vehicles on the 402 West leading up to the Blue Water Bridge crossing.
 - o Convoy in Windsor ON 23 Jan to begin driving a circuit leading up to the Ambassador Bridge crossing. This will continue until 27 Jan when the convoy will depart for Ottawa.
 - o Eastern convoys bound for Ottawa will depart: St. Johns NL, P.E.I, Enfield NS on 27 Jan
 - o Southern convoys bound for Ottawa will depart: Windsor and Sarnia on 27 Jan
 - o The main Freedom Convoy group departed Vancouver on 23 Jan eastbound towards Ottawa. Various BC convoys to link up in Calgary before continuing eastbound journey. [Link](#)
 - o Southern convoys bound for Ottawa will depart: Windsor and Sarnia on 27 Jan
 - o Eastern convoys bound for Ottawa will depart: St. Johns NL, P.E.I, Enfield NS on 27 Jan
 - o **All convoys plan to meet in Ottawa on 29 Jan**
- Maps, contacts for routes and timelines can be found on the organizations website: [Link](#)

- o The convoy has left SK this morning, making its way through Winnipeg, MB, to reach Kenora, ON, by tonight.
 - o According to Regina Police Service, an estimated 1,200 semi-trucks were seen driving through. [Link](#)
- Canadian Truck Alliance (CTA) released a statement saying it does not support any protests on public roadways, highways, and bridges. [Link](#)
 - o **The Atlantic Canadian Trucking Association is adding its voice to calls, denouncing the trucking convoy headed for Ottawa.**
- As reported on Open Sources, CTA states that as many as 32,000 or 20% of CAN/US cross border truck drivers may be impacted by the vaccine mandate. [Link](#)
 - o **25 Jan: 26,000 of the 160,000 drivers (Canadians and Americans) who make regular Canada-United-States trips will likely be sidelined as a result of the vaccine mandate in both countries.**
- In Calgary, as many as 1,000 supporters lined the streets in a show of support as the convoy rolled into the city. [Link](#)
- News of the Freedom Convoy 2022 has hit international media as seen on [Reuters](#)
- According to Open Sources, Freedom Convoy 2022, has raised **over \$4.5 million** in fundraising in support of their cause. [Link](#)
 - o However, GoFundMe has temporarily frozen the funds, stating that they require the fundraisers “be transparent about the flow of funds and have a clear plan for how those funds will be spent.” [Link](#)
 - o The group stated that the money raised is to help truckers pay for fuel, lodging and food, and will be distributed “following a strict procedure,”. They also stated that “Drivers must register, check in with their respective road captains and submit receipts to be reimbursed,” and that “all remaining funds will be donated to a Veterans Association in Canada. There is a lawyer and accountant overseeing this.” [Link](#)
- PM Justin Trudeau announced that close to 90% of Canadian Truckers are already vaccinated and will therefore not be impacted by the new restrictions. [Link](#)
 - o Some truckers oppose the mandates, commenting on the restriction on their freedom as well as the predicted effects on the supply chain. [Link](#)
- Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole, has commented on options for rapid tests at the border for unvaccinated drivers to avoid disrupting the flow of goods at a time of high inflation. [Link](#)
- AB PM Jason Kenney signaled he was working with U.S. governors on a letter to pressure President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to reverse the order. [Link](#)
- In AB, those who cannot go to Ottawa are being encouraged to block the Coutts border, most likely on 28-29 Jan, and not move until the demands in Ottawa are met. (Source: comments on the Freedom Convoy 2020 Facebook page.)

Assessment: (derived from information available on open sources) for the 28-29 Jan Demonstration in Ottawa:

- Trucking convoys driving slowly on highways could cause travel delays for commercial or personal vehicles on major highways.
- The trucking convoys gathering in Ottawa could severely impact the travel of commercial and personal vehicles within the City.
- Ottawa Police, the OPP and the RCMP are aware.
- Since most government employees are working remotely, the disruption to government activities is expected to be minor.
- **INTERSECT is indicating that the situation remains fluid and all affected NCR police agencies, as well as the City of Ottawa, are aware of and coordinating a response to the progress of the various convoys.**
- **INTERSECT has set up an activation call on 26 Jan at 0800 at which point they expect to have a more accurate picture of the anticipated impacts.**

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